QUARTERLY REPORT

July to September 2014

Submitted to USAID/Liberia

Award Number: **669-A-00-10-00074-00**
Grantee: **IREX**

Contacts:

IREX Washington
Jill Miller
1275 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
U.S.A.
1 202-628-8188

IREX Liberia
Bill Burke
Payne Avenue & 15th Street
Sinkor, Monrovia
Liberia
231(0)88-060-1859

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What began as a typical quarter in July subsequently evolved into one of the most challenging times in the history of the CSML program, let alone in Liberia's recent history. The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was mentioned in the previous Quarterly Report as leading to a temporary restriction on travel to Lofa County. By late July, Liberians were increasingly fearful of a virus that had reached unprecedented numbers and geographic scale. Incidences of Ebola rose from the dozens to the hundreds and eventually to the thousands throughout the course of this quarter—resulting in significant adjustments in programming, management approach, and in the everyday movement and mindset of people throughout the country. This quarterly report captures the transition from full roll-out of activities in anticipation of the Special Senatorial Election planned for October 14th, to a nearly full transition to Ebola-related activities, just as all organizations and individuals in Liberia were forced to re-assess, and target their energies and efforts towards ending this crisis.

In July, Election-related activities were well underway, including nationwide civic education outreach via the Vote Smart Van initiative implemented by National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE). The Election Coordinating Committee (ECC) completed a training for campaign monitors, and the Women NGO's Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) held two of their planned four Regional Forums across the country to engage citizens and community leaders in discussion and debate around the proposed 30% quota bill to promote women's political participation. The Liberia Media Center (LMC) was actively preparing their staff and office to host the Elections Reporting Center (ERC) and CSML's civil society Resource Partners (RP) were focused on reviewing and distributing grant opportunities to CSOs throughout the country to conduct awareness activities focused on the upcoming election and the Constitutional Review process.

As the Ebola crisis worsened toward the end of July, the CSML program quickly reassessed circumstances to ensure the safety and well-being of staff while simultaneously ensuring that a new plan for activities to combat the crisis could be rolled out. This programmatic shift towards Ebola-related activities was made possible by our existing partnerships with capable and driven civil society and media partners and through the flexibility and support of the teams at USAID and IREX Headquarters in DC. By August an Ebola Response Plan (see Attachment 1) was devised and by September many of CSML's partners received grants to implement the plan. To make the grants possible, funds were reallocated from the election modification budget (see Attachment 2). Many of the activities represent a natural transition from skills and networks established over CSML's five years of implementation—including civil society-led community leader forums to promote dialogue and sustain peace and enhanced training and mentoring for journalists to ensure responsible reporting on this important national priority. New approaches and partnerships have also emerged as key components in combatting the crisis; they include engaging the National Civil Society Council and Inter-Religious Council as important intermediaries between citizens and government, and installation of a Situation Room at the LMC which will allow for monitoring of the government, international efforts, and the media. Much of the latter part of this quarter was spent brainstorming ideas, developing grant agreements, and preparing for these activities which will undoubtedly serve as part of a global effort to end this epidemic.

In the midst of a busy quarter and what will surely be an intense time ahead, the CSML team must also reflect on the tragic human impact that this crisis has already had in Liberia. The virus has spread to all 15 counties and has taken the lives of many individuals—from a prominent government consultant who cared for his ailing sister to a young man in West Point who was sent to purchase food and got caught in a violent demonstration. The eventual cumulative impact of this crisis will be tremendous. The CSML team has already suffered the loss of family and friends. It is with this backdrop of tragedy and loss that we strive to work cooperatively with national and international partners to help bring an end to this crisis, and strive for a return to peace in our beloved Liberia.

2. PROGRAM PURPOSE

To sustain peace in Liberia through greater inclusion, giving a voice to, informing and engaging Liberian citizens.

3. PROGRAM RESULTS

Continuing a new feature that began in the final Quarterly Report of Year Four, we highlight below key impact stories that emerged from IREX's program activities during this quarter:

Community Mobilization and Local Government Engagement Contribute to Successful Civic Education Efforts

Previous to the escalation of the Ebola crisis, CSML-supported civic education efforts were well underway in the 15 counties to prepare Liberians to vote responsibly in the 2014 Special Senatorial Elections. National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE), CSML's partner for the Vote Smart Van (VSV) Initiative, travelled to 15 counties throughout July with the support of two vans and a network of 175 volunteers. Combining documentary screening, cultural performance, and effective public speaking, the NAYMOTE team attracted crowds well over 200 people at each stop. Part of the success of their efforts is linked to their proactive engagement with county-level election magistrates in all 15 counties—informing the county officials of their planned activities, inviting their participation and support, and engendering a symbiotic relationship that ensures greater sustainability and support for their efforts. In ten of the 15 counties, NAYMOTE directly engaged with 34,879 eligible voters, including 18,717 women.

WMI Mentees Improve Confidence and Job Prospects as a Result of Two-Day Career Development Workshop

Female journalists face various barriers to successful career development in Liberia, including a precedent of male dominance in the sector, lack of formal journalistic training, and consequently a lack of professionalism. Scholarship and job opportunities exist, but the requirements are often extensive and the process unfamiliar and intimidating to budding journalists, in particular these largely disenfranchised and marginalized young women. In July, 16 women who are part of the Women's Media Initiative (WMI) implemented by the Liberia Women Media Action Committee (LIWOMAC) participated in a two-day career development workshop, guiding them through the process of writing a resume, personal statement, and cover letter. Several of the young women revealed their previous hesitancy to apply for jobs or scholarships because they did not fully understand what was being asked of them. As a result of this workshop, these women expressed commitment to applying for new opportunities and not allowing previous insecurities or fears to hold them back.

SMS Platform Identifies Community Priorities Leading to Heightened Security Measures

The four community radio hubs trained in the SMS Platform are using the opinion poll component to gauge community perception and influence community, district, and county-wide decision making. Many of the polls produced this quarter asked citizens to weigh in the quality of government response efforts, the effectiveness of traditional medicine to combat Ebola, and preferred strategies for containing the crisis in their communities. The hub operator at Radio Kintoma who is also a journalist observed that county health authorities were indecisive as to whether to quarantine the community of Kpasaguziah, where increasing incidences of Ebola were reported. He conducted the poll and respondents overwhelmingly supported quarantining the community. These findings were shared with county authorities, who used the information in conjunction with broader consultation with other key stakeholders to quarantine the community for 21 days.
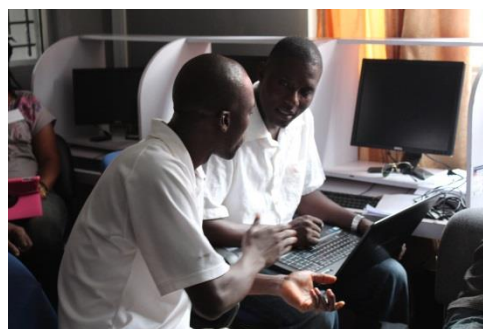
CSML-Trained Reporters Reveal Important Prevention Lapses in National Response Effort

CSML is working with LIWOMAC and the Liberia Media Center (LMC) to foster responsible, sensitive, and factual reporting on the Ebola crisis. To broaden reporters' coverage and experience, LMC conducted Reporting Trips with Monrovia-based journlaists throughout the quarter to Bomi, Margibi, and rural Montserrado Counties. During one of these trips, reporters from the Daily Observer and Women Voices newspapers reported on the Ebola screening process at the Clay checkpoint, one of the quarantined communities near Monrovia. The reporting showed that health care workers were using three manual thermometers to take the temperatures of the thousands of people who lined up at the checkpoint, inserting the same thermometers into the mouths of citizens, resulting in increased risk for Ebola transmission and creating understandable fear among citizens. Soon after these stories were published, and in response in-part to the public response to these stories, a non-IREX affiliated international partner delivered digital thermometers to the checkpoint, which are now being used in place of the more dangerous manual alternative.

Civil Society Institutions Support Development of Ebola Messaging with Support from Liberian Government

Extensive research on the media sector in Liberia and five years of the CSML program have pointed to the important role that radio plays to disseminate information and influence perception among Liberian citizens in both Monrovia and in the Counties. As the Ebola crisis worsened in late July the need for effective and clear messaging to increase awareness of the virus and prevention methods was paramount, as incidences quickly snowballed and misinformation was rampant both on and off public radio. CSML partners LIWOMAC and Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP) coordinated with the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) to develop targeted messages to be distributed to CSML's community radio network and other stations across the country. As some of the first radio messages developed in Liberia in response to the crisis, these messages served an important role in both increasing widespread awareness and highlighting the potential for government, civil society, and media sector collaboration towards achieving shared goals.

4. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

4.1.   MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

This quarter saw the most challenging period to date for the CSML program and staff. The Ebola crisis which first emerged in March 2014 and reemerged and worsened in late July forced the CSML team—along with all entities working in Liberia—to reassess activities, office hours, staffing, and overall management approach to adjust to this challenging new reality.

In mid-July as concerns over Ebola increased, the IREX team took precautions to reduce risk for staff exposure including halting all up-country travel and providing hand sanitizing materials in all vehicles and on all staff desks. With the situation quickly worsening, in late July the four expatriate staff temporarily relocated to Washington, DC where they worked out of IREX Headquarters while national staff remained in Monrovia, and worked from home. Twice per week national staff who served on the Senior Management Team (SMT) worked from the IREX office for four hours per day, and once per week all national staff met in the Monrovia office for an all-staff Skype meeting with the DC-based expatriate staff.   Senior Management Team meetings were also held via Skype once per week, as were Program Team meetings (see section 5.1.1.1.). To avoid contact with potential infected persons using public transportation, IREX arranged for drivers and vehicles to transport National staff to and from the office based on the schedule mentioned above.

The National staff in Monrovia, expatriate staff in DC, and HQ-based support staff (including Program support staff, senior management, and Field Operations) worked together more collaboratively than ever to monitor the evolving crisis and provide ongoing support and communication to all staff and their families.

After monitoring the crisis through August and September, the Chief of Party returned to Monrovia in mid-September. Also at that time, work hours resumed to five days per week, with a shortened daily schedule to ensure that staff travelled within the parameters of the national curfew, and to allow IREX drivers to continue to transport all staff to and from work. In late September, the Senior Program Manager returned to Monrovia, with the two remaining staff expected to return in the first week of October.

Though a five-day work week resumed, several protocol have been put in place to enhance the safety of all IREX staff and visitors, they include installing a hand-washing station at the entrance to the compound and entrance to the IREX office; taking and recording the temperature of all staff and visitors upon arrival to the office; using disposable plates, cups, and cutlery in place of reusable items; and holding all meetings in the conference room to allow for distance between participants. Additionally, travel up-country remained restricted throughout the quarter, though when deemed necessary, special precautions were taken including providing drivers with IREX-owned mattresses and sheets to reduce risk of transmission while sleeping in hotels in the counties. These practices will be continued indefinitely, and new precautions and/or procedures will be implemented as deemed necessary.

4.2.   FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND IT

4.2.1. FINANCE

4.2.1.1.   PERFORM ROUTINE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

4.2.1.1.1.   Ensure ongoing financial management of CSML

In spite of the Ebola crisis, the program continued to maintain its burn rate as payments were made on several subgrants, contracts, Ebola-related, and other program activities. Total expenditure for the quarter amounted to US$692,000.00, representing approximately 27% of the annual budget of US$2,482,000.00.

<div style="text-align: right;">4.2.1.1.2.   Perform ongoing support to subgrantees on financial management</div>

The Finance Office worked with Grants and Program Departments to process payments for 25 subgrants for implementation of milestone activities outlined in various subgrant agreements during the quarter.

4.2.1.2.   PREPARE FOR PROGRAM CLOSEOUT

4.2.1.2.1.   Develop a close-out checklist for finance, administration, and grants

During the reporting period, the Finance Office completed the drafting of a close-out checklist for the Finance, Administration, and Grants departments. The checklist, when approved, will serve as a guide for those Offices' closeout activities.

4.2.2.   ADMINISTRATION

4.2.2.1.   ENSURE THAT US-HIRES' DOCUMENTATION IS UP-TO-DATE

During this reporting period, the Administration Office submitted IREX's second semi-annual report on the number of expat staff working with IREX-Liberia and statistics on local staff wages to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

The Administration Office also renewed three expat staff and one expat staff spouse residence and re-entry visa permits at the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

4.2.2.2.   RENEW SERVICE CONTRACTS AND OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT

The Administration Office renewed two annual contracts: the catering service (Cathy's Collection & Catering Services) for IREX trainings and events and the health insurance benefit contract with (Insurance Company of Africa) for local staff and dependent's medical coverage. Administration also serviced eight fire extinguishers for the office and vehicles at the National Fire Service of Liberia.

The Administration Office renewed the registration documents for two vehicles (one used by IREX and the other by partner DEN-L) at the Ministry of Transportation.

4.2.2.3.   ENSURE IKFO IS UPDATED ON A TIMELY BASIS

During this quarter one staff (Emmanuel Flomo, Driver) contract was terminated and the Administration Office successfully uploaded the departure Personnel Action Form into iKFO.

4.2.2.4.   PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED

The Administration Office provided support to the Media team to facilitate transport of community radio equipment from Roberts International Airport. Additionally, the Administration Office ensured that all routine administrative activities were carried out successfully throughout the quarter.

4.2.3.   INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

4.2.3.1.   PROVIDE ONGOING IT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE TO IREX

During the quarter, the IT Officer provided routine computer maintenance to the IREX team. This includes working extensively with IREX's Internet Service Provider (ISP) to improve the internet speed and consistency at the office. He also supported the Media Team to purchase computers for the Election Reporting Center (ERC) implemented in partnership with the Liberia Media Center (LMC) (see section 5.9.5.).

4.2.3.2.   PROVIDE IT SUPPORT TO CSML PARTNERS

The IT Officer also provided support to the Online Media Resources Clearing House (OMRCH) during the quarter. Stories are still being uploaded on the site and all other components of the site are being monitored by the webmaster and the IT Officer to ensure the site is fully functional. Activity and interest on Social Media sites including Facebook and Twitter continues to increase. The site has received a total of fifteen thousand hits as of the end of the quarter (see section 5.4.7.).

4.2.3.2.2.   Provide support to LMC with implementation of SMS initiative

The IT Officer provided Technical support to the SMS initiative platform hosted at the Liberia Media Center (LMC) during the quarter. Communication with Hub Operator's continued during the quarter to ensure opinion polls were actively created and utilized to assess citizen perceptions and priorities in regards to Ebola. The IT Officer also spoke with the SMS manager to ensure that hub operators received salaries and internet modems were replenished regularly. During the quarter, the Grand Bassa Hub at Magic FM experienced technical problems with their computer and were unable to develop questions. The IT Officer and LMC team travelled to Grand Bassa to repair the computer, reinstall programs, and setup all configurations.

5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOS AND FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA (WORKPLAN 1.)

5.1.   FULLY INTEGRATE CSML PARTNERS AND ENHANCE COLLABORATION (WORKPLAN 1.1.)

5.1.1. ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITHIN CSML (WORKPLAN 1.1.1.)

5.1.1.1.   HOST WEEKLY PROGRAM MEETINGS (WORKPLAN 1.1.1.1.)

As referenced in the Management Overview (4.1.), Program Meetings were held throughout the quarter, though logistics were adjusted in light of the Ebola crisis. During the time that the four expatriate staff were based in Washington D.C., Program Meetings were held via Skype at 1pm in Liberia/9am EST on Wednesdays. Meetings will return to their regular scheduled Tuesdays at 9am upon the return of all expatriate staff to Monrovia by early October. As per usual, the weekly program meetings enable the Program staff to share their planned activities for the coming week and coordinate accordingly. With new and increasing Ebola-related activities developing throughout the quarter, these meetings were particularly useful throughout this challenging and busy period.

5.2.   OBJECTIVE ONE: (WORKPLAN 1.2.)

5.2.1. ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF RESOURCE PARTNERS (RPS) (WORKPLAN 1.2.1)

5.2.1.1.   ENHANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION CAPACITY OF MAIN PARTNERS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.2.)

5.2.1.1.1.   Conduct training for other program staff persons (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.2.1.)

Twenty-four (24) program staff and two EDs of Main Partners (12 males and 12 females) received training in M&E

One of the best ways for M&E Coordinators to have integrated M&E systems is for all program staff and Executive Directors (EDs) to understand its importance. Twenty-four program staff and two EDs attended the M&E training facilitated by Maureen Taylor, consultant of Social Impact (SI) in July. The training was planned to allow program staff and M&E Coordinators to interact, share, and practice using M&E information already existing within their organizations. The M&E Coordinators also made presentations to their EDs and program staff explaining their M&E systems, the kinds of collaboration they needed from them, and why an integrated system is important. They then took part in M&E exercises that demonstrated the regular interaction that was needed. The goal was to help program staff understand their role and responsibilities in maintaining a good M&E system.

5.2.1.2.1.   Administer increased number of grants to RPs for CSOs (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.3.1.)
RPs and the RSC worked with 36 (thirty-six) CSOs on 31 (thirty-one) election related proposals and with nine (9) CSOs on Ebola-related proposals.

Prior to the government's announcement of the increasing number of Ebola infections, the state of emergency, and banning of large gatherings, the RPs and RSC mentored 36 CSOs on 31 election related grants. Six of those proposals were approved by the CS Team for the RPs/RSC to develop FOG agreements, and two more projects were to begin implementation when the state of emergency began.

In August the CS Team contributed to development of the CSML Ebola Response Plan (Attachment 1) and began managing two kinds of CSO Ebola grants through the RPs: the community leaders' forums and CSO community outreach. Grant opportunities for community leaders' forums were offered to five main partners and two selected CSOs to provide a platform for community leaders to share their concerns and fears as they relate to Ebola and discuss the risks of possible civil unrest and potential strategies to ensure that citizens' opinions are heard without resorting to violence (see section 5.2.3.1.). The citizen participation and community outreach grants were available for all partner CSOs to hold various targeted outreach activities (see section 5.3.1.1.). An RFP and a shortened proposal template to speed up the process were sent to the main partners with information about these and other grant opportunities.

Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL) submitted a request to the U.S. Embassy for funding to purchase Ebola related supplies and deliver Ebola training to prison staff to reduce the risk of spreading the disease within the prison system. A meeting was held between USAID, PFL, and CSML, and PFL was encouraged to submit a proposal. However when it was learned that training was being delivered to prison staff through the Ministry of Health, the CS Team suggested that PFL write a proposal to hold community forums; PFL did this and included Monrovia Central Prison as one of its communities.

5.2.1.3.   ENHANCE RPS' FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.4.)

5.2.1.3.1.   Build on skills acquired during proposal writing training through mentoring (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.4.1.)
After RP mentoring, eleven (11) election or Constitution proposals were approved for funding

With the hold on elections activities, the RPs and CS Team agreed that RPs/RSC would provide phone mentoring to their groups working on proposals so that they would have all the proposals ready by the time the National Election Commission (NEC) was ready to move forward with elections activities. This method was used to provide feedback on proposals for elections and Constitutional Review related grants. The RPs continued to send CSOs' proposals to the CS Team, which also provided feedback, and the CSOs' worked on corrections. RPs also developed FOGs and sent them to the CS Team for review and feedback. These eleven proposals and those from the previous quarter are on standby for implementation as soon as NEC releases a new timetable for election, and the remaining FOGs will be finalized. Further descriptions of the completed proposals are in sections 5.2.3.1., 5.3.1.1., and 5.4.1.1.

RPs and RSC also mentored CSOs on the Ebola related projects. Of nine received, three were brought to completion and received approval to begin work during the quarter.

Three main partners (YMCA, WANEP and DEN-L) requested grants to create Ebola related awareness in Bong and Montserrado Counties in August. The CS Team coordinated with them on selection of communities so they wouldn't duplicate activities in the same communities. The three partners held meetings with the leadership in these communities to get their buy in before beginning awareness activities. Two communities were reported to be in

complete denial of the existence of the virus and were not taking the necessary measures when the activities began. The three partners worked in the following communities:

WANEP: Slipway, Perry Street, Buzzy Quarter, Sayetown, Jallah Town and PHP communities
DEN-L: Gbarnga, Kokoya, and Sanoyea Districts
YMCA: Doe Community and Clara Town

5.2.2. ENHANCE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.)

5.2.2.1. ENHANCE MENTORING PROVIDED TO CSOS BY RPS (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.)

As discussed in section 5.2.1.3.1., it was agreed that mentors and MTs should stay away from group or one-on-one mentoring and instead use phone mentoring as the primary approach. This allowed for proposal mentoring, but most other kinds of mentoring had to be put on hold.

5.2.2.1.1. Provide mentoring on proposal development and grants implementation (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.2.)

As discussed in section 5.2.1.2.1., the RPs mentored 36 CSOs on 31 election related proposals and nine CSOs on Ebola related proposals. With feedback from the CS Team, the RPs were able to mentor 11 of the CSOs to develop final proposals approved by the CS Team before the end of the quarter; their FOG agreements were signed and implementation begun.

5.2.3. PROMOTE RECONCILIATION AMONG CITIZENS THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.2.3.)

5.2.3.1. PROVIDE GRANTS PROMOTING HARMONY AND NON-VIOLENCE AROUND ELECTION (WORKPLAN 1.2.3.1.)

Six (6) FOGs were signed to promote harmony and non-violence around the Special Senatorial Election, and CSOs developed ten (10) new proposals.

Of the 31 election proposals on which the RPs and RSC mentored during the quarter, 15 were focused on promoting non-violence at election time. Of those, six had FOG agreements signed during the quarter under review and were ready to implement when the work was halted by the EVD crisis. The grant planned by Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) was unique in that it would work through Monrovia sex workers to raise awareness on violence prevention among other hard-to-reach youth. All six were discussed in the April-June Quarterly Report; they are as follows:

- Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL)
- Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)
- Community Empowerment and Sustainable Program (CESP)
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)
- Humanitarian Initiative for Community Development (HICOD) and Common Action Liberia (CAL)
- Southeastern Women Development Association (SEWODA) – submitted revised proposal to work independently from SAMFU

Ten additional proposals to promote non-violent elections were in progress in July, as follows:
- Inter-Visionary Artists (IVA) – recruitment and selection of 150 youth of voting age for 2-day trainings about the election and election violence, using video and other activities, and formation of voluntary Youth Community Watch groups in Ganta

- Community Safety Initiative (CSI) – town hall meetings and awareness in Lofa County schools and market places to provide better understanding and enhance trust of the election system in order to mitigate violence
- Peace Building Resource Centre (PBRC) – sports tournament, town hall meeting, and radio programming to increase trust in the election system and thereby reduce violence in six communities in three districts of Gbarpolu County
- Flomo Theatre – hold roundtable discussions, screen mobile theatres, and present cultural performances on violence prevention.
- Gbarzon Youth Development Association (GBAYDA) and Feeding House Organization (FHO) – work with eight youth groups to hold sports matches and eight women's groups to hold roundtable meetings in Grand Gedeh County and use community radio to enhance understanding of the election process and promote non-violence
- We Care - provide accurate information about the Special Senatorial Election through dialogues and interactions with youth in twelve communities in Montserrado County and provide an environment where they can debate on the 2014 Special Senatorial Election free of violence and molestation.
- Liberia Motor Transport Union (LMTU) Ganta Branch – promote non-violent elections to youth through a community parade followed by an indoor program; organize youth into a club to monitor early warning signs of election violence
- BOTPAL – create awareness of the threat of violence through a consultative forum with community leaders and focus groups with youth and women
- CAP – hold focus group discussions and debates among young people, facilitate town hall meetings among the elders, hold debates among the young people on their participation in violence-free elections, and conduct cultural performances on violence-free elections.
- FLY – organize a sports tournament and youth forums to draw attention to the problem of violence at election time.

When work halted on the election, the CS Team offered grant opportunities for five main partners and two selected CSOs to hold community leaders forums as part of CSML's Ebola Response Plan. These were designed to provide community leaders the space to share their concerns and fears as they relate to Ebola and discuss the risks of possible civil unrest and potential strategies to ensure that citizens' opinions are heard without resorting to violence.

The Team coordinated the community locations so that 49 communities in 11 counties would be reached. Following is the distribution:

- Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA) - Montserrado county (6)
- Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP) – Montserrado (3)
- Development Education Network – Liberia (DEN-L) – Bong (4), Nimba (4)
- Liberia Women Media Action Committee (LIWOMAC) – Montserrado (4), Bomi (2), Gbarpolu (1)
- NAYMOTE Partners for Democratic Development (NAYMOTE) – Montserrado (3)Bong (1), Lofa (1), Margibi (1)
- West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) - Montserrado: (3), Grand Gedeh: (2), River Gee (1), Maryland (1) , Grand Kru (1)
- Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) – Montserrado (3), Grand Bassa (4)
- Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) – Montserrado (3), Lofa (5), Grand Cape Mount (2)

The forums will provide leaders the space to voice concerns about unintended consequences of Ebola policies such as the curfew, quarantine, and school closings.

In addition to the leaders forums, Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) applied for the citizen participation and community outreach grant to work with leaders in West Point through a two-day working session with block leaders, tribal leaders, Township Commissioner, District 7 Representative, and representatives of women and youth groups to reconcile various points of view on the crisis that occurred in that community in August.

5.3   OBJECTIVE TWO: *ADVOCACY CSOS HAVE CAPACITY TO MONITOR GOVERNMENT POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND EXPENDITURES* (WORKPLAN 1.3)

5.3.1. PROMOTE ADVOCACY AND ADDRESS CORRUPTION THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.3.1.)

5.3.1.1.   PROVIDE GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF CIVIC EDUCATION—ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS—AND MENTOR CSOS IN GRANT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION (WORKPLAN 1.3.1.1.)

Four (4) proposals were submitted in July for civic education around the Special Senatorial Election, and three (3) submitted earlier received signed FOGs to implement activities.

Of the CSO proposals submitted for election related activities before the Ebola crisis, four were for civic education on the elections process, as follows:

- Liberia Christian Handicapped Organization (LICHO) – create awareness among people with physical disabilities in Lofa County about their right to receive assistance in order to vote.
- Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) – focus on helping under-educated people understand the voting process through dramas, ccultural performances, and dances in Grand Gedeh County.
- Rural Human Rights Activists Programme (RHRAP) - educational workshops for Citizens Action Committee members of Gbarpolu County on voting and ballot procedures.
- Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS) - town hall meetings and civic and voter education workshops in Bong County.

In addition, three projects submitted to the CS Team in the preceding quarter were approved in July:

- Bassa Women Development Association (BAWODA) - encourage citizens to consider women candidates.
- Buchanan Child Community Based Care (BUCCOBAC**)** – "How to select a Candidate Wisely" through town hall meeting and radio drama.
- Bong Youth Association (BYA) - "Know Your Candidates and Vote Wisely" through information put together by BYA on the Bong County candidates through interviews and research and interactive fora with the candidates.

In addition, five CSOs submitted proposals to RPs to implement grants in citizens' participation and community outreach for Ebola. A draft FOG was developed and shared with the RPs to help them speed up the grant making process. These funds are already in the RPs year five grants for them to fund and oversee projects as part of their mentoring. The RPs have developed two FOGs and shared them with the CS Team; few corrections were needed. Information about these five proposals is provided below:

- Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) Bong branch - facilitate a process leading to the formation of Community Surveillance teams to help prevent the spread of the Ebola (with county health team)

- Bong Youth Association (BYA) - strengthen the capacity of local leaders and surveillance teams and reinforce communities' awareness and knowledge about the disease in five communities in Bong County
- Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL) - engage community members including community leaders, health-workers, youths and government officials to discuss preventive measure on Ebola and the role of the community; Engaging prison authorities including health workers, correctional officers, inmates and prison monitors/mediators to dialogue on preventive measure for possible Ebola outbreak
- Community Empowerment and Sustainable Program (CESP) - develop "Community Ebola eradication and prevention Action Plans" for four communities with ideas generated by the communities and finalize them through community dialogue forums
- Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA) - reduce the stigmatization of people infected with EVD in five communities within Salala and Jorquelleh #1 in Bong County, working with zonal heads, tribal governors, women and youths groups

5.3. OBJECTIVE THREE: *ENHANCE PERCEPTIONS OF CSOS BY GOVERNMENT AND OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CSOS BY CITIZENS* (WORKPLAN 1.4.)

5.3.2. IMPROVE CITIZENS' DIALOGUE WITH THEIR LEADERS THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.)

In line with the Ebola Response Plan, CSOs began developing proposals to address issues around possible conflict between local government officials and citizens in the management and response to the EVD. By the end of the quarter nine had been received, as follows:

- Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women and Girls (ADWANGA) - Enhance Citizens and Government Engagement
- Bong Youth Association (BYA) strengthen the capacity of local leaders and surveillance teams in five communities in Bong County, reinforce communities' awareness and knowledge about Ebola virus disease.
- Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL) - Engaging community members including community leaders, health-workers, youths and government officials to discuss preventive measure on Ebola and the role of the community;
- Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAAL) - is facilitating reconciliation of the people and leaders of West Point through a two-day working session with block leaders, tribal leaders, Township Commissioner, District 7 Representative, and representatives of women and youth groups.
- Community Empowerment & Sustainable Program (CESP) - "Community Ebola Eradication and Prevention Action Plan" 4 communities in Brewerville district; stakeholders (District Representative, traditional leader, religious leaders, community chair persons, leader of women groups, leader of men group and leader of youth group) for total of fifteen (15) participants per community
- Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA) Reducing the Level of Stigmatization on People infected with the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) within Ebola affected communities - Town Hall Meeting and Community Engagement, five communities within Salala and Jorquelleh #1, radio talk show, work with local leaders in groups – zonal heads and quarter chiefs, women, youth

CSML gave a FOG directly to Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) to organize twelve interactive forums in Margibi, Bomi, Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, and Lofa counties to promote transparency and dialogue among citizens and government officials on the Ebola crisis and specifically the government's response to the crisis. Government representatives are invited to discuss their procedures and provide updates on the work of the Ebola Taskforce, and community leaders and representatives are given a chance to air their grievances and in the end feel consulted and able to play their role. These meetings are air on community radio, Radio VERITAS, truth FM and the Liberia broadcasting radio.

As part of IREX Ebola Response Plan activity the RSC Coordinator with the support of the CS Senior Program Officer facilitated three meetings of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL) and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCL) with the aim of supporting them to effectively respond to the Ebola crisis. Through these meetings the organizations sought to increase information sharing between themselves on Ebola interventions; improve interventions through critical analysis for enforcement and alternative solution; and strengthen engagement with government at policy and implementation levels.

The IRCL and NCSCL developed and submitted a proposal to IREX in September to achieve the above stated goals, which is expected to be approved and implementation initiated in October.

5.3.2.1. PROVIDE GRANTS TO PROMOTE CSOS' INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL REFORM PROCESSES SUCH AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS THROUGH MENTORING AND GRANT ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.1.)

Two (2) FOGS were developed for CSOs planning projects related to the Constitutional Review, while three (3) others were under review

In July the RPs continued to work with CSOs on grant proposals for activities related to the Constitutional Review process. A proposal from Bassa Concerned Citizens Movement (BCCM) to involve citizens in the Constitutional Review process was approved and WONGOSOL had prepared its FOG. The RSC likewise developed a FOG for the project of Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA). Three other CSOs—SAP and Ballet Gedeh Rooster working together and NEP—were still working on proposal revisions, and one organization—SAMFU—had just sent a proposal. By early August it was clear that the RPs would not be traveling to their leeward counties and that work on the Constitutional Review process was on hold because of the epidemic. When the Constitutional work resumes, the CS Team will review all FOGS that the RPs had prepared, and the RPs will enter into agreement with the CSOs to carry them out.

5.3.1. TCC SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL TRADITIONAL COUNCIL (WORKPLAN 1.4.2.)

5.3.1.1. CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS (WORKPLAN 1.4.2.1.)

Forty-one (41) leaders (all female) participated in a two-day training led by TCC on legal issues, dispute resolution and social accountability to advance good governance

Approximately seventy-five (75) Chiefs and community leaders participated in three TCC and MOHSW-led trainings on health, security, and social mobilization in response to the Ebola crisis

Thirty-five (35) community leaders (30 males and 5 females) participated in a meeting with TCC, UNICEF and CDC in Suakoko District to develop a district-wide awareness and prevention action plan

The Carter Center's Access to Justice team (TCC/ATJ) continued its capacity building support to the National Council of Chiefs of Liberia (NCCL) throughout the quarter, with a focus on Ebola transmission and prevention awareness raising in support of Government's efforts. During the reporting period, TCC/ATJ provided one training on laws, conflict resolution, and social accountability and several additional trainings on Ebola transmission and prevention awareness. This latter approach is as a result of a written request of the Minister of Internal Affairs, co-chair of the National Ebola Taskforce, and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders (NCCL) to plan and implement a mobilization and awareness campaign for customary leaders to educate rural citizens about Ebola.

Training of Women Leaders on Legal, Conflict Resolution, and Social Accountability

On July 29th-30th, TCC/ATJ in continuation of its effort to strengthen the indigenous leaders on legal issues, dispute resolution and social accountability to advance good governance, held a two-day women's training in Gbarnga city, Bong that convened 41 women leaders.

Legal topics facilitated at the training included: overview of the Liberian Constitution, the budget law, concession law, domestic Relations law, the concept of Gender-Based violence, and the criminal justice system of Liberia. These legal sessions were followed by conflict resolution methods and social accountability sessions which focus on arbitration and mediation, social accountability, and the role and duty of chief and traditional leader.

The women leaders participated meaningfully in the training but were clearly quite concerned about the evolving Ebola crisis. The leaders closed the training by cautioning all to engage the Ebola situation from a one to one perspective to create awareness against the Ebola Virus and see the awareness as a collective initiative.

Training of Local Community Leaders on Ebola Messaging
As a result of a written request from the MIA and NCCL, on August 23rd-27th, TCC in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW), UNICEF, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), supported an initial round of county trainings for chiefs and other community leaders by providing administrative, logistical, and financial support. Three teams of MIA, NCCL, and TCC/ATJ staff travelled simultaneously in three counties (Bong, Lofa and Nimba), with each team spending one or two days in each of the counties. Approximately 20-25 people were trained in each county on health, security, and social mobilization. Trainees included senior chiefs, elders, women and youth leaders, local radio presenters, and other community leaders. Training was conducted by the County Health Coordinators or other MOHSW staff, as well as local security and county authorities, with support from the joint teams from the MIA, NCCL, and TCC. Following the trainings, the chiefs and other participants returned to their communities to disseminate the information directly with the help of megaphones provided by TCC.

In addition, Chiefs and community leaders are making use of TCC/ATJ air time at various community radio stations across the country to inform their citizens about Ebola and how it can be prevented. This approach helps situate Ebola prevention interventions within the community and ensures that citizens and their leaders see this as a collective effort to help reduce the spread.

Similarly on September 27th, TCC/ATJ collaborated with CDC and UNICEF on a small collaborative activity directed at piloting a community-based approach to the fight against Ebola. This one day event held in Suakoko district, Bong County brought together thirty five local community leaders including women, youth leaders, and customary chiefs. Presentations were made by MOH, CDC, and UNICEF on Ebola treatment, prevention and response and actions taken by the Liberian Government to eradicate EVD. After the presentations, the participants were encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants agreed to a plan of action to be completed in the following two weeks, it included:

- Conduct awareness-raising in every community on Ebola (including distribution of 2000 Ebola Awareness flyers)
- Establish Ebola Watch Team in every community
- Create Ebola awareness amongst Motorcyclists in the district
- County Health team will disseminate the local county hotline throughout district
- Cease all treatment of sick community members from traditional healers without the consent of the community leader
- Communities hold regular meetings to assess the health situation

- Report all deaths from community district health authority

Since the conclusion of this meeting, the TCC/ATJ CDRM assigned in Bong County has consistently followed up with the participants to assess progress on the above mentioned action plan. Most measures have already been implemented while others are ongoing, and this has coincided with a reduction in the number of new cases in parts of the county. However, traditional leaders continue to stress the lack of coordination between them and the county taskforce, thereby impeding their movement.

Funding:
Activities during the quarter utilized TCC/ATJ's infrastructure under an existing grant from the Government of Sweden, some salary support from IREX for work with chiefs, and additional direct support from the Carter Center.

5.4.   OBJECTIVE FOUR: (WORKPLAN 1.5.)

5.4.1. ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF MEDIA MAIN PARTNERS (MMP) (WORKPLAN 1.5.1.)

5.4.1.1.   HOLD MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH EACH MMP (WORKPLAN 1.5.1.2.)

During the month, the Media Team held daily conversations with staff at LMC and the Liberia Women Media Action Committee (LIWOMAC) to develop and implement activities in response to the Ebola crisis. The discussions focused on developing Ebola-related strategies aimed at educating people about the disease and how to protect themselves.

The Media Team also mentored Main Media Partners on ways they can engage reporters in covering the Ebola crisis by focusing less on conflict and sensationalism and reporting on how EVD is impacting public life in Liberia.

On August 20th and 27th, the Senior Media Program Officer represented IREX at the meetings of the National Civil Society Task Force on Ebola. The Task Force, comprising 35 CSOs, was created to address some of the social aspects of Ebola, monitor government and its response, and serve a bridge between the government and communities. Some of CSML's partners such as the LMC and LIWOMAC are members of the Task Force.

Some members of IREX Senior Management Team (SMT) held conversations with Task Force members to see how CSML can support their Ebola-related activities or collaborate with the Task Force on CSML's Ebola Response Plan.

IREX decided to partner with the task force to develop a "Situation Room'' to monitor the government's response to the Ebola crisis, as well as the media and security sector. Both parties agreed that the Situation Room be hosted at the LMC because the organization has the expertise and resources in media and government monitoring.

In late August, IREX's Media Team began working with the task force and the LMC on a budget and proposal for the Situation Room. It was also agreed that the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) would use the findings of the media monitoring to engage media outlets who violate media ethical standards in their coverage of the crisis and also work with the Ministry of Information to dialogue with the PUL before shutting down media outlets.

In September, the Media Team held separate meetings with LMC, PUL and the Civil Society Task Force on Ebola to finalize proposals under the CSML Ebola Response Plan. The Media team and Chief of Party guided each partner on how to develop activities for various components of the project.

The Senior Media Program Officer worked with the LMC to complete and design the media monitoring component for the Situation Room and requested the task force to develop a system for analyzing information that will be collated through the situation room plus a plan to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the project. The Media Team helped PUL to clearly define its activities within the scope of the CSML Ebola Plan. The Media team reviewed the PUL proposal and budget and asked the organization to make adjustments.

5.4.2. SPECIALIZED CONSULTING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.)

5.4.2.1.   ENHANCE MENTORING OF SCBDI PARTNERS T O IMPROVE EDITORIAL CONTENT AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.)

5.4.2.1.1.   Increase one-on-one mentoring with reporters and producers in key areas (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.1.)

On July 9th, 13 reporters (9 males and 4 females) attended the Editors and Mentees meeting at the LMC. Participants discussed story ideas on the Special Senatorial Elections, the Ebola crisis, and a follow-up on the Nimba citizens protest at the Acelor Mittal Mining Company.

During the meeting, the LMC's Program Coordinator announced plans to follow up with the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the accreditation of CSML's SCBDI reporters. The accreditation will enable them to cover the electoral precincts during the Special Senatorial Elections.

Reporters discussed the various challenges they face in completing stories from their reporting trips including lack of responsiveness from government officials and other authoritative sources. The newspaper reporters also expressed need for additional mentoring, and IREX is currently working on identifying a print consultant to work with these reporters.

Those plans developed in July were put on hold due to the Ebola crisis. The LMC changed the monthly Editors and Mentees meeting to weekly editorial meetings to mentor CSML Monrovia-based reporters in developing Ebola-related story ideas and editing content. This mentoring was conducted with support from broadcast consultant Raymond Zarbay.

5.4.2.1.2.   Hold more reporting trips (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.2.)

Fourteen (14) reporters (11 males and 3 females) representing eight Monrovia-based media outlets received mentoring on covering the Ebola crisis.

The reporting trip planned for July was suspended due to the Ebola crisis. Reporters stayed in Monrovia to work with the LMC and CSML broadcast consultant to develop Ebola-related story ideas. In August and September, the reporters traveled to various parts of Monrovia, Margibi, and Bomi Counties to report on Ebola's toll on public life as well as life in the Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs). Participating media outlets included Women Voices, Daily Observer, the News, Informer and Public Agenda newspapers, and Liberia Women Democracy Radio (LWDR), LUX-FM, SKY-FM/TV and United Methodist Radio.

Below are highlights from those reporting trips:

- From August 4th to 7th, reporters from LWDR, United Methodist Radio, and SKY-FM/TV produced stories on the Ministry of Commerce's crackdown on businesses that were inflating prices of chlorine, faucet, buckets, food items, and other goods during the crisis. They also reported on the postponement of the Special Senatorial Election due to the Ebola crisis.
- Reporters from the Daily Observer and Women Voices newspapers reported on the Ebola screening process at the Clay checkpoint, one of the quarantined communities near Monrovia. The reporting showed that health care workers were using three manual thermometers to take the temperatures of the thousands of people who lined up at the checkpoint, creating understandable fear among those who were participated in the temperature check. The stories were published in the August 11th and 14th editions of Women Voices and Daily Observer newspapers, respectively.

- Reporters also produced stories on the health conditions at Dolo Town Health Center in Margibi County, which was serving as a transit center for Ebola patients. LWDR and the News reported that the clinic was overwhelmed—with several suspected cases and recent Ebola-related deaths documented at the facility. Reporters also produced stories on the challenges faced by Dolo Town residents due to the quarantine, particularly in regards to accessing food. The stories were published and aired August 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th on LWDR and the News Newspaper.
- On September 8th, Dr. Atai Omoturu, an Ebola case manager for World Health Organization, led reporters on a tour of the renovation of the new Ebola Treatment Unit at the hospital. The government opened the Center in response to the increase in Ebola cases in communities around Monrovia. On September 15th, the Informer Newspaper published a story about the community's reaction to the new center. Reporters made two follow-up visits to the center to monitor the progress.
- On September 15th, 16th, 17th and 19th, five partner media outlets produced stories on the release of two female survivors from the Bomi Holding Center. The women shared their experiences at the Center and described how they contracted the disease. The women's stories were aired on SKY-FM/TV, LUX-FM and LWDR; and published in Women Voices and the Daily Observer newspapers.
- On September 15th and 16th, SKY-FM/TV, United Methodist Radio, and LUX-FM reported on the discharge of sixteen Ebola survivors from the Ebola Treatment Unit at the John F. Kennedy Hospital. The stories helped reinforce the message that Ebola is not a death sentence and that people can survive if they access health care in the early stages of contracting the virus.
- The News Newspaper and LUX-FM published stories on September 23rd and 25th, respectively, on the Ebola storage facility at the Samuel K. Doe stadium. This included providing clarity on a widespread rumor that government was planning to open an Ebola Treatment Center at the stadium. The rumor caused some tensions in the community. The reporting dispelled the rumor and calmed the community's concerns.

5.4.2.1.3.   Increase involvement with Media Managers (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.3.)

CSML canceled all engagements with media managers because of the Ebola crisis.

5.4.3. SOL PLAATJE MEDIA LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (WORKPLAN 1.5.3.)

5.4.3.1.   ENHANCE THE ROLE OF SOL PLAATJE FELLOWS AS MEDIA MENTORS (WORKPLAN 1.5.3.1.)

5.4.3.1.1.   Increase mentoring for CRs and SCBDI partners (WORKPLAN 1.5.3.1.1.)

Mentoring was suspended during the quarter due to the Ebola crisis.

5.4.4. WOMEN'S MEDIA INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.)

5.4.4.1.   ENSURE IMPROVED WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN IN THE MEDIA (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.)

5.4.4.1.1.   Finalize Gender Policy (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.1.)

5.4.4.1.1.1. HOLD VALIDATION ROUNDTABLE WITH STAKEHOLDERS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.1.1.)

In July, LIWOMC and PUL began finalizing plans to hold a validation meeting on the Gender Policy to encourage media outlets to create a safe space for women in their newsrooms and increase women's representation in the media. The validation was set for August 4th but was suspended because of the Ebola crisis.

5.4.4.1.2.   Expand SEA campaign (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.2.)

5.4.4.1.2.1. IDENTIFY SEA FOCAL POINTS IN MONROVIA-BASED OUTLETS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.2.1.)

All CSML activities related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) were suspended due to the Ebola crisis.

5.4.4.2. INCREASE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN NEWSROOMS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.)

In August, IREX authorized LIWOMAC to divert some funds from the Women in the Media Initiative (WMI) to focus on Ebola Awareness activities. LIWOMAC teamed up with the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP) in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Information to produce radio/television spot messages and skits aimed at raising awareness about Ebola and how people can protect themselves from the deadly virus. The messages were produced in simple Liberian English and 16 local languages.

The messages were distributed to CSML's 19 community radio stations in the seven target counties and to eight radio stations in four non-CSML counties: Grand Cape Mount, Rivercess, Margibi, and Bomi.

On August 31st, LIWOMAC held a working session to review WMI activities and draw up a plan for achieving results under the initiative. Activities under the WMI were suspended during the quarter due to the Ebola crisis. The staff outlined strategies to continue engaging rural female journalists and mentees despite the travel restriction.

In September, LIWOMAC provided small grants to rural female journalists to report on Ebola-related stories. The young women reported on a range of stories related to women:

- Nana Zarway, of Radio Kergehemahn in Nimba County, reported on the bodies of suspected Ebola victims lying in the streets. She also told the story of a woman who was declared dead by the Ebola Treatment Center and later woke up when the burial team was trying to bury her. The woman was taken to the hospital where she later died.
- Vivian Woyah, of Radio Karn in Nimba County, reported on discrimination against Ebola survivors and the discharge of 21 patients from an Ebola Treatment Center.
- Korpo Dukuly of Radio Kintoma in Lofa County, reported on children who were abandoned by the community after their parents died of Ebola and on the decline of Ebola cases in Lofa County.

5.4.4.2.1. Enhance mentoring for WMI scholars and female journalists (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.1.)
5.4.4.2.1.1. WORK WITH WMI SCHOLARS TO IMPROVE CVS/WORK SAMPLES (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.1.2.)

Sixteen (16) WMI Scholars (all female) participated in a career development workshop where they prepared resumes and developed work portfolios

WMI scholars and mentees spent two days in July learning how to write resumes, personal statements and prepare their work portfolio during a career development workshop at LIWOMAC. IREX intern Victoria Heckenlaible, a graduate student from Georgetown University, taught the young women how to set career goals, interview for jobs, and polish their resumes to attract potential employers.

After the training, Victoria continued to work with the young women to revise their resumes and personal statements. LIWOMAC staff also collected biographical information from the mentees to compile in a directory that will be shared with media managers who are looking to increase women representation in their newsrooms.

5.4.4.2.2. Increase use of training studio (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.2.)
All activities for the training studio were suspended during the quarter due to the Ebola outbreak.

5.4.4.3. ENHANCE "I KNOW MY RIGHTS" COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.4.)
All activities under the "I Know My Rights" Forums were suspended during the quarter due to the Ebola crisis.

5.4.5. HIGH SCHOOL TO JOURNALISM INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.5.)
The High School to Journalism Program was halted during the period under review because of the Ebola crisis. All schools have been closed due to the crisis. The Media Team is looking at ways to revive the program.

5.4.6. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.6.)

5.4.6.1. AWARD MORE IJ GRANTS TO SCBDI PARTNERS AND CRSs (WORKPLAN 1.5.6.1.)

Oscar Dolo completed his reporting assignment on the root cause of the border dispute between Liberia and Ivory Coast during the month of July. Broadcast consultant Frank Sainworla is working with Dolo to edit his story.

5.4.7. ON-LINE MEDIA RESOURCES CLEARINGHOUSE (WORKPLAN 1.5.7.)

5.4.7.1. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF OMRCH (WORKPLAN 1.5.7.2.)

The On-line Media Resources Clearing House (OMRCH) website and their affiliated Facebook page remained active during the quarter. By October 1st the Facebook Account recorded 624 friends, up from 487 at the end of June, while the Facebook Page showed 1,970 Likes, up from 821 over the same period. An average of five items are posted on the page every month.

The main stories featured on the website throughout the quarter include:

WAJA Launches Three Year Gender Sensitive Reporting Project
http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=313&sub=89&mi=1

Winners of the Press Union of Liberia 2014 Awards
http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=312&sub=88&mi=1

More Training for Rural Journalists, PUL Vice President Asserts
http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=315&sub=89&mi=1#sthash.gFHJuODy.dpuf

Publishers' Press Release on Chronicle Closure
http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=321&sub=89&mi=1

PUL Denounces Closure of National Chronicle, Demands Immediate Reopening
http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=319&sub=89&mi=1

5.5. OBJECTIVE FIVE: (WORKPLAN 1.6.)

5.5.1. ENHANCE MEDIA CONTENT OF PARTNER CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.6.1.)

5.5.1.1. PROVIDE TRAINING AND INTENSIVE MENTORING ON CONTENT DEVELOPMENT (WORKPLAN 1.6.1.2.)

CSML suspended all mentoring travel during the quarter due to the Ebola crisis. Though travel was banned, the LMC trainer provided phone mentoring to community radio journalists and staff focused on covering the human aspects of the Ebola crisis, the impact on the health care systems in their counties, and educating people about the disease and how to protect themselves. The LMC also developed a plan to mentor CRS journalists on tracking government's response to the Ebola crisis.

Radio stations produced spot messages on preventive measures and also ran messages produced by UNICEF as well as those developed with coordination from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information, LIWOMAC, and CEMESP (see section 5.5.4.2.).

On August 9th and 10th, Radio Totota in Bong County—one of the hardest hit counties—ran a series of stories on Ebola. The station interviewed the Superintendent about the Ebola crisis in the county. In the interview, the superintendent urged citizens to protect themselves from the virus.

Super Bongese, also in Bong County, reported on residents' opposition to the opening of an Ebola treatment center at the local stadium and on the plight of citizens at two quarantined communities in the county.

In August, Magic FM in Grand Bassa County reported on the opening of a second checkpoint in the county to check the temperatures of people entering and leaving the county. During the screening, a person from Rivercess later tested positive for Ebola after he registered an above average temperature at one of the checkpoints.

During the quarter, the LMC also developed a plan to mentor CRS journalists on tracking government's response to the Ebola crisis. The plan also includes tips on reporting the humanitarian and socio-economic aspects of Ebola and how reporters can protect themselves from contracting the disease.

5.5.2. ENHANCE TECHNICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.6.4.)

5.5.2.1. CONTINUE TO TRAIN AND MENTOR STUDIO OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS (WORKPLAN 1.6.4.2.)

Five (5) community radio stations expand their reach with new transmitters.

In August, new 300-watt transmitters were installed at Radio Totota and Radio Bong Mines in Bong County with the support of the LMC technician and Regional Service technicians. With the new transmitters, Radio Bong Mines' reach extends to Totota, Kakata, Bomi, Bensonville and other surrounding villages.

The wider reach was made possible through a technique referred to as Studio to Transmitter Link (STL). The technique involves retransmitting a small signal from the main studio in Central Bong Mines to the mountain that hosts the 300-watts transmitter. The height of the mountain makes it easier to transmit to a larger distance. Before the installation, Radio Bong Mines had been off the air for about three months.

At Radio Totota, technicians installed ground rods, cables, and copper to prevent lightening and electrical shock from damaging the transmitter. Before CSML's intervention, Radio Totota was off the air for a month due to damage caused by lightning.

In September, new 550-watts transmitters were installed at Radio Kergheamahn and the Voice of Tappitta in Nimba County. Radio Kergheamahn is now heard in all of Nimba county, parts of Bong, Grand Bassa, and Rivercess counties and towns and villages bordering Guinea and Ivory Coast. After being off air for nine months, Voice of Tappitta resumed broadcast with a renewed focus on broadcasting Ebola Awareness messages produced and distributed by LIWOMAC and CEMESP. In part as a result of radio messages, residents intensified efforts to protect themselves by setting up Ebola sanitation wash stations at public places in Tappitta.

Equipment installations at two radio stations in Lofa County were put on hold because of the Ebola crisis. The Ebola outbreak began in Lofa County, and the area remains one of the hardest-hit Ebola areas in the country. The equipment is targeted for Radio Tamba Taikor in Foya and Radio Vahun in Vahun.

During the period under review, CSML stepped in to help Radio Bomi, the radio station in Bomi County that was gutted in a fire in August. Radio Bomi is not a CSML partner station, but CSML asked USAID's approval to donate a transmitter and radio to the station to enable them to report and educate people about Ebola. Bomi was one of the hardest-hit Ebola areas, and Radio Bomi is an important and trusted source of information for Bomi residents.

On Sept. 17th USAID Deputy Mission Director Nina Bowen officially turned over the 500-watts transmitter to the citizens of Bomi. The transmitter will be installed in October.

      5.5.2.2.   ENHANCE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF ALICOR (WORKPLAN 1.6.4.3.)

          5.5.2.2.1.   Continue to monitor constitutional reform process including membership expansion (WORKPLAN 1.6.4.3.1.)

          5.5.2.2.2.   Work with ALICOR to develop sustainability plan (WORKPLAN 1.6.4.3.2.)

In July, ALICOR conducted orientation for its new Project Officer. The orientation included an overview of the organization's policies, operational procedures, and its mission. The Project Officer was also connected with CSML partner NARDA to receive mentoring and training in proposal writing.

In August, ALICOR's Project Officer and Executive Committee developed a proposal for creating Ebola awareness that will be aired on 55 community radio stations in the 15 counties. The organization developed a proposal and budget for a $15,000 grant from UNESCO.

5.6.   OBJECTIVE SIX: (WORKPLAN 1.7.)

5.6.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE USE OF SMS SYSTEM (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.)

5.6.1.1.   CONDUCT QUARTERLY SITE VISITS TO RADIO HUBS (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.1.)

The Quarterly Site Visit planned for this quarter did not occur as a result of the Ebola crisis and related restrictions on travel. However, the LMC and IREX IT Officer continued to provide support to the four Hubs via email and telephone to ensure that they are producing opinion polls and received technical guidance as needed.

In September, the IREX IT Officer and LMC IT Officer travelled to Magic FM in Grand Bassa to provide IT assistance. The hub's computer was transferred to Monrovia for repairs and will be returned to the station in early October. In the interim the Grand Bassa hub collaborated with the LMC team in Monrovia to create opinion polls on their behalf which the station then announced on the radio in Grand Bassa, allowing them to continue to use the platform despite being offline.

The most popular opinion polls throughout the quarter focused on Ebola related issues. Below are some examples of questions posed to listeners via the four SMS hubs:

Lofa County
Several towns in Lofa County have taken some measures to prevent the Ebola virus through stopping strangers from entering their towns except health worker and security for the period of thirty days. Is this measure the best way to kick-out the virus?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage
Yes	63	81.54%
No	12	18.46%
Total	75	100%

There is an outbreak of the deadly Ebola Virus in Kpasaguziah Town in Zorzor District with two confirmed cases. What can you do to prevent further spread of the virus?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage

Quarantine the community	73	86.9%
Do not quarantine the community	11	13.1%
Total	84	100%

Nimba County

Is it good to treat Ebola patient with county herb?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage
Yes	51	54.26%
No	43	45.74%
Total	94	100%

Grand Bassa County

Do you think pronouncement made by the County Authorities that the Ambulance can only respond to emergency calls during the day and not at night is helping the fight against Ebola?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage
Yes	3	8.6%
No	33	91.4%
Total	35	100%

Bong County

What do you think is the cause of rapid spread of the deadly Ebola virus in our communities?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage
Government's slow response	23	61%
Hiding sick people	5	13%
Secret burial	5	13%
Touching one another	5	13%
Total	38	99.95%

5.6.2. INCREASE CITIZEN AWARENESS AND USAGE OF SMS (WORKPLAN 1.7.3.)

5.6.2.1. INCREASE CRS COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE OPINION POLL QUESTIONS (WORKPLAN 1.7.3.1.)

As indicated in section 5.7.1.1., the hub in Grand Bassa was unable to produce their own polls due to computer issues in September. However, through coordination with the LMC they were able to develop questions via the platform operators in Monrovia and continue to produce polls to gauge listeners' concerns and priorities in regards to the Ebola crisis in the county.

5.6.3. SHARE LESSONS LEARNED WITH OTHER IREX/USAID PROJECTS (WORKPLAN 1.7.5.)

In September, IREX's Senior Program Manager and IT Officer worked with the Technology for Development Community of Practice team in DC to hold a workshop/discussion for IREX staff on their experience with the SMS platform in Liberia, as well as share their lessons learned from their Field Learning Exchange to Mozambique in May 2014. The IREX staff in DC found the discussion useful and informative for their own program activities and as they develop new business proposals that incorporate SMS and/or community radio technology.

5.7. OBJECTIVE SEVEN: (WORKPLAN 1.8.)

Since the end of July 2014, The Carter Center's work to engage civil society and the media to advance the establishment of the right of access to information has been seriously disrupted due to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. As containing the virus became the prerequisite to resuming normal programming, TCC/ATI 's engagement shifted from our planned programming to engaging our civil society FOI networks and supporting our government partners in addressing the issue through greater access and dissemination of information.

TCC/ATI continued to provide support to the seven Freedom of Information (FOI) County Networks to raise serve as leaders in the County Ebola efforts, including serving on their respective task forces and sharing information related to the control and prevention of EVD, and the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) to encourage proactive disclosure of information around activities, the state of the crisis and government response.

The support to the Ministry of Information involves expanding coverage of MICAT's daily press briefing through key community radio stations throughout the country, as well as helping them develop a more comprehensive communications and disclosure strategy.   The TCC/ATI project has assisted MICAT in coordinating the provision of a wide range of information sources, including compiling, collating, and drafting updates for more impactful daily press briefings, as well as determining who relays messages and how and what is relayed each day. In an effort to advance transparency around the fight against Ebola, the range of information covers not just the number of Ebola cases, but information regarding donations, expenditures, etc. In order to effectively carry out this important work, TCC/ATI has been providing technical assistance to MICAT as they work to finalize the Government of Liberia communication strategy. A MICAT Communication Coordination Committee Secretariat has been formed and TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator serves as a member while both the TCC/ATI Project Lead and Senior Project Coordinator continue to attend weekly meetings and contribute to the work of the bigger National Communications Committee to finalize the communications strategy and share information and experiences across a range of local and international partners working to contain the Ebola epidemic.

5.7.1. CONTINUE DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN FOI TRACKING SYSTEM (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.)

5.7.1.1. SUPPORT LFIC TO ESTABLISH TRACKING SYSTEM AND RAISE AWARENESS (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.1.)

In July, TCC/ATI continued to support the Liberia Freedom of Information (LFIC) in establishing and maintaining the System for Tracking and Monitoring Freedom of Information (STAM-FOI). In furtherance of this objective, TCC/ATI met with the LFIC Secretariat Coordinator to discuss a potential work plan for request tracking, starting with reaching out to constituent members and other groups, in addition to the county networks. LFIC members began disseminating the FOI hotline number during awareness and capacity building events and considering the placement/identification of contact points in non-USAID target counties to collect additional tracking data provided that additional funding could be secured.   Also in July, TCC/ATI drafted a simple data collection chart (while the

more detailed/formal chart undergoes testing) to help in gathering requests from the counties and LFIC constituents, and trained the LFIC intern on how to manage the chart.

While work on the STAM-FOI was placed on hold for most of August following President Sirleaf's declaration of a 90-day State of Emergency throughout Liberia, in September, TCC/ATI began reviewing the penultimate draft of the procedures manual for the STAM-FOI to determine what additional inputs and revisions are needed in order to finalize the document.

5.7.1.2. COORDINATORS FOLLOW-UP WITH CSOS AND CRSS FOR REQUESTS AND RESPONSES (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.2.)

Although TCC/ATI temporarily suspended the support of FOI requests in the wake of the EVD crisis, in August and September we began reaching out to key CSOs and CRSS (the later through our seven county FOI networks) to gather information about their Ebola efforts, in order to engage in the sharing of Ebola information as part of the feedback loop to national government.   We also note that a number of our partners continue to make information requests, particularly related to the security forces, Ebola related-expenditures, and health activities.

5.7.1.3. COUNTY COORDINATORS SHARE TRACKING DATA WITH LFIC (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.3.)

In July, TCC/ATI provided assistance to the seven FOI network coordinators to share request tracking data with the LFIC in order to bolster the number of requests being tracked; however; during the surge of the EVD crisis in August and September we did not focus on encouraging the county coordinators to share tracking data.

5.7.2. PROVIDE FOI TRAINING FOR CSO NETWORK LEADERS (WORKPLAN 1.8.2.)

5.7.2.1. DEVELOP TRAINING OF TRAINERS MANUAL (WORKPLAN 1.8.2.1.)

Over the quarter, TCC/ATI reviewed progress to date on the training of trainers manual and in the next quarter will provide a draft to our Liberian consultant for review.

5.7.2.2. PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON REQUEST MAKING FOR CSOS, JOURNALISTS, MENTORS, AND CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.8.2.2.1.)

In July, TCC/ATI brought together seven leaders of civil society groups that run discussion centers across Monrovia to provide a space for them to share experiences in using the FOI law and to sharpen their request-making skills. By working with leaders of community based intellectual centers that attract large audiences, including government officials, business professionals, marketers, and members of the public, we hope to share the value of FOI and encourage requests more broadly.

TCC/ATI also continued to support the media through specialized trainings on filing requests for information. In July, TCC/ATI held training for 11 journalists of L-Net radio on the FOI law and how to file requests for information. Following the training, the reporters identified specific information needs and drafted five requests for information pertaining to various salient topics, including revenue from the Liberia Petroleum Refinery, the disbursement of foreign scholarships, and even the EVD outbreak.

Also in July, TCC/ATI provided training on request making to the youth of White Plains. Following the training, they drafted a request to the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC), asking for a copy of the memorandum of understanding between the White Plains Township and LWSC management relating to the corporation's water treatment plant. The youths complained of the lack of pipe born water despite the placement of a national water treatment plant in their town.

In light of the current EVD crisis, TCC/ATI did not provide any FOI training during the months of August and September.

5.7.3. SUPPORT COUNTY FOI NETWORKS TO ENCOURAGE USE OF FOI LAW (WORKPLAN 1.8.3.)

5.7.3.1. SUPPORT NETWORKS TO CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS IN ADVANCING FOI (WORKPLAN 1.8.3.1.)

TCC/ATI continued to provide support to seven county FOI network coordinators as they worked to advance FOI at the local level. To this end, the networks continued to meet with local leaders to push for greater openness. For example, in July, the Bong County FOI Network met with county leadership to discuss ways to advance FOI and overcome key challenges. The network also held a FOI radio talk show to stress the need for line ministries to proactively disclose information and for citizens to make requests.

Also in July, in an attempt to make FOI awareness efforts more impactful, TCC/ATI met with the Rural Montserrado County FOI Network Coordinator to devise a plan to follow-up with CSOs/CBOs that previously have been trained by the network but that have not made any known requests for information to date.   The network made a list of all previously trained groups and began follow-up with each one, helping them to identify information needs, as well as write, file, and track requests for information. The network also intends to produce a radio program that solicits information needs from listeners to help write and file the requests. The requests and responses will be communicated to the public on an on-going basis. TCC/ATI will work to help replicate such follow-up among the FOI networks in all target counties.

In August, as further elaborated below, TCC/ATI's support to the networks turned toward EVD-related efforts.

5.7.3.2. SUPPORT NETWORKS' ONGOING AWARENESS EFFORTS AND REQUEST MAKING CAMPAIGNS (WORKPLAN 1.8.3.2.)

In July, TCC/ATI continued to support the seven FOI networks in raising awareness and encouraging requests for information, with a specific focus on moving people from awareness to action. Examples of these efforts include:

- The Bong FOI Network held two training workshops with local school FOI clubs to encourage requests for information that could help lead to positive change.
- The Grand Bassa FOI Network held several meetings to raise awareness and build capacity to make requests. During these meetings network members shared FOI material among approximately 30 participants. The network also aired FOI messages on local radio programming, encouraging people to file requests for information.
- The Grand Gedeh FOI Network raised awareness and built capacity for request making in ten different institutions and five communities around Zwedru, including schools, community forums, women's groups, and among local officials. During the interactions with the women's groups, 16 members pledged to make requests for information. The network also aired eight radio shows, one of which featured the county project planner who provided an overview and implementation status of current projects in the region.
- In Rural Montserrado, the local FOI network met with the Women's Group Facilitators in Crozierville to provide training on writing requests for information and to urge them to file requests that can help impact women's livelihoods in the community.
- The Nimba County FOI network continued to raise awareness on local community radio stations on the value of FOI and to encourage listeners to file requests for information.

In August and September, TCC/ATI adapted its support to the county FOI networks and began providing technical assistance to the networks as they worked to share information and raise awareness of EVD within their local communities. In August, in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Traditional Council of Liberia, the Ministry of Health, and TCC/ATJ, TCC/ATI supported the training of its seven county FOI network coordinators on Ebola prevention and strategies for community awareness-raising. The FOI network coordinators

began serving as members of the County Ebola Task Forces and worked alongside traditional leaders to raise awareness on Ebola and its prevention in local communities. Network coordinators also arranged for the chiefs to speak to community members on changing long standing habits that have now become means of EVD transmission. To further bolster EVD sensitization efforts, TCC/ATI drafted and processed contracts for local community radio stations to broadcast approved, translated Ebola messaging and programming. In September, TCC/ATI began working with the network coordinators to determine how best to locally disseminate nationally disclosed information and to support County Task Force feedback to the national government with regard to county level Ebola efforts.

Following are examples of EVD-related activities undertaken by the county FOI networks during this quarter:

Bong County
The Bong FOI network coordinator attended meetings with other members of the County Ebola Task Force and local civil society groups to share experiences and information in raising awareness. Radio Gbarnga, a member institution of the county FOI Network, broadcasted Ebola messages in the local dialects while hosting taskforce members, traditional leaders, women, and youth on air to raise awareness of EVD.

Grand Bassa County
As a member of the Buchanan Ebola Task Force, the Grand Bassa FOI network coordinator helped to plan and implement EVD awareness-raising. Radio Gbehzon, which serves as Secretary of the Grand Bassa FOI Network, supported efforts by providing a platform for the traditional leaders and county authorities to discuss developments around Ebola in the county. The network raised awareness and provided Ebola prevention education to 75 civil society organizations and community members at the District 1 compound—the hardest hit region (20 people died in one village alone within the district). The District Superintendent spoke during the meeting, stressing the need for more visits and awareness for his people. The network also devoted its regular FOI airtime on Magic FM Radio to discuss EVD efforts in the county.

Grand Gedeh County
The Grand Gedeh FOI network coordinator serves as part of the county Ebola Task Force. The Task Force meets daily and then visits communities to raise awareness on EVD prevention and control. To date, the network has helped to raise awareness in 13 towns within the county. The network solicited and received support from the UN mission in Liberia to transport network members to various communities, thereby helping to keep transmission in the county low.

Lofa County
The Lofa county FOI network supported EVD prevention efforts in the hardest hit county. As a member of the county Ebola Task Force, the network coordinator met regularly and strategized on prevention and control methods, as well as raising awareness. The network members worked at different levels of the county to raise awareness, particularly among women and youth. Under the Carter Center contract, Radio Kintoma--a member institution of the Lofa County FOI Network---continued to broadcast approved Ebola messages in the four main local dialects and provide a platform for discussion of EVD-related issues.

Nimba County
The Nimba county FOI network has been working at two fronts in the hard hit areas of Ganta and Sanniquellie. The network co-chair serves on the Ebola Task Force in Ganta, the commercial town that shares a border with Guinea and experienced a rapid spread of Ebola. The co-chair coordinated with other network members and the Concerned Women's Group (of which she is also a member) to raise awareness at the community level. In the provincial capital of Sanniquellie, the network coordinator helped to mobilize communities and raise EVD awareness. Additionally, the network worked with Radio Gehgeama to support the airing of translated Ebola messages; host traditional leaders, women, and youth; and obtain community views on the fight against the epidemic.

River Gee County

Radio Gee's Assistant Programs Director serves as the coordinator of the River Gee county FOI network and represents the network and station on the county Ebola Task Force. During the quarter, the station broadcast messages from the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in the local dialect as part of the station's contract with TCC. Further, the network coordinator helped to plan and implement EVD awareness activities, as well as prepare communities for EVD awareness activities in advance of visits by the Ebola Task Force.

Rural Montserrado County

As manager of the Voice of Rural Montserrado, the county FOI network coordinator helped to air Ebola messaging and solicit community views on EVD cases within local communities. The interaction was used to help raise further EVD awareness.

5.7.4. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CSOS TO UNDERGO THEMATIC CAMPAIGNS (WORKPLAN 1.8.4.)

5.7.4.1. DEVELOP THEMATIC CAMPAIGNS, INCLUDING POTENTIAL FOR INCORPORATING TCC WOMEN AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION PROGRAM METHODOLOGY (WORKPLAN 1.8.4.1.)

In the beginning of the quarter, TCC/ATI continued to provide technical assistance for thematic campaigns focused on select sectors important to Liberia's development. In July, TCC/ATI reviewed and helped to improve the LMC's campaign proposal on FOI and roads/infrastructure, given the importance of roads in linking communities, transporting goods, and expanding markets. The LMC campaign aims to generate 150 requests for information from Caldwell, Johnsonville, Paynesville, and Gardnersville on information pertinent to the development and maintenance of roads in their respective communities. Ultimately the project seeks to help build a culture of tracking and monitoring government funded and implemented development projects through requests for information. However, this work was temporarily placed on hold in August due to the current EVD crisis. We may explore other ways to engage these partners in our support to EVD efforts.

5.7.5. COMMUNICATE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RESPONSES ON AN ONGOING BASIS TO GENERAL PUBLIC (WORKPLAN 1.8.5.)

5.7.5.1. DOCUMENT CASES (WORKPLAN 1.8.5.1.)

In July, TCC/ATI began to develop an action plan and a standard form for the collection of FOI anecdotes from each county network in order to more broadly share such success stories among the Liberian public. In August, given the EVD outbreak, TCC/ATI stopped promoting the communication of FOI requests, but instead began working with FOI networks to collect information related to county-level Ebola efforts and to develop an effective feedback loop to share such information with key ministries, such as MICAT.

5.7.5.2. MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION (WORKPLAN 1.8.5.2.)

While TCC/ATI did not develop any materials this quarter, we did continue broad distribution of the FOI wrist bands and other FOI publications at various events in July. In August and September we halted materials distribution due to EVD.

5.7.6. INTERNATIONAL RIGHT TO KNOW DAY CELEBRATION (WORKPLAN 1.8.6.)

Ahead of International Right to Know Day (IRTKD) (September 28th), TCC/ATI assisted the Independent Information Commission in convening a series of stakeholder meeting to plan for the 2014 IRTKD commemoration. However, the current Ebola outbreak has required the cancellation of IRTKD activities this year.

5.8. OBJECTIVE EIGHT (WORKPLAN 1.9.)

5.8.1. HOLD MONTHLY ELECTION COORDINATION MEETINGS (WORKPLAN 1.9.1.)

On July 24th IREX hosted an Election Activity Coordination Meeting with representatives from all of IREX's election activity implementing partners. The meeting began with a presentation from the National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE), who shared their successes and challenges thus far, and then each partner shared their planned activities for August and coordination across partners was discussed when appropriate.

The Coordination meetings in August and September did not occur as a result of the Ebola crisis. With restrictions on gatherings, the indefinite postponement of the Senatorial election, and partners focused on Ebola-related activities, it was not appropriate to continue these meetings throughout this time. These meetings will resume in the next quarter, particularly if the election is re-scheduled for December 2014, as is expected.

5.8.2. VOTE SMART VANS (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.)

5.8.2.1.   ROLL-OUT OF VSVS IN 15 COUNTIES (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.2.)

5.8.2.1.1.   Community Outreach and Engagement (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.2.1.)
34,879 individuals (16,166 males and 18,717 females) were reached via community mobilization and door to door outreach via the Vote Smart Van volunteer network in July 2014

Throughout July, the VSV County Coordinators and District Focal Persons held meetings with their respective election magistrates as well as community and traditional leaders to inform them about the VSV project, and encourage collaboration with ongoing civic education activities. The VSV team received up-to-date information from the Magistrates on ID Card replacement Center locations and other valuable information to then disseminate via the VSV network of volunteers.

The VSV team in Montserrado also held a community mobilization event in partnership with the Chicken Soup Factory Youth Association in the Chicken Soup Factory community.

Extensive door-to-door and community-based outreach was conducted in all fifteen counties. Due to bad roads and telecommunication networks, County Coordinators within Bong, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Sinoe and Maryland counties were delayed in compiling the reports for their different districts. However data collected from ten of the fifteen counties (Grand Bassa, Nimba, Rivercess, Grand Cape Mount, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Gbarpolu, Bomi and Montserrado) indicates that the VSV volunteers in those counties reached a total of 34,879 persons (16,166 males and 18,717 females). This data is collected via outreach monitoring forms that each volunteer completes and are verified by NAYMOTE staff.

This outreach includes engagement with citizens in market places, coffee shops, entertainment centers, and homes. The primary messages shared during this outreach in July focused on replacement of lost or damaged voters' identification cards. The VSV volunteers were able to provide citizens with specific information on when, how, and where they can replace their cards. The impact of this outreach was enhanced by the VSV t-shirts worn by all volunteers and the election information posters and materials provided by the NEC's local offices.

Due to the Ebola crisis and the expected postponement of the election, NAYMOTE's civic education activities were postponed in late July and discussion was held as to how NAYMOTE could support CSML's Ebola Response Plan. NAYMOTE received a grant in September to conduct six community leader forums (see section 5.2.3.1.) as well as to expand upon a Call Center that they envisioned as a means to engage with their VSV volunteer network to share key information about the virus, prevention methods, etc. Additionally, NAYMOTE will utilize the two Vote Smart Van vehicles to conduct community outreach on Ebola, through messaging via the PA system on the vans, and distribution of MOHSW and MOI-certified health information posters. These grant activities will begin in early October.

5.8.3. SPECIAL ELECTION GRANTS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.)

5.3.2.2. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN EACH RPS' GRANT TO DISTRIBUTE TO CSOS FOR ELECTION ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.1.)

As discussed in sections 5.2.3.1., 5.3.1.1., and 5.3.2.1., 31 CSOs election grant proposals were under review in July, but implementation was put on hold because of the EVD and the postponement of the election. Thus the RPs were instructed to talk to CSOs about shortening their election plans and re-allocating some of their grant funds for Ebola awareness and sustaining peace during the outbreak. The CS Team re-worked their section of the CSML budget to re-allocate funds for Ebola-related activities. The Ebola Response Plan and proposal template were shared with them through the RPs. These are discussed in section 5.2.1.2.1.

5.3.2.3. CONDUCT ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.2.)

5.3.2.3.1. Work with schools, identify judges and coaches (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.2.1.)

The coaches continued to work with the student contestants during the month of July. In Lofa County there was growing concern about the Ebola virus, and in the last week of the month the coaches asked that the work stop. All essay writing contest activities were postponed as of late July and throughout the quarter as a result of the worsening crisis and the closing of schools. In the belief that any election campaign period would have to be reduced, some of these funds were re-allocated for Ebola activities.

5.3.2.4. DEVELOP ELECTION RELATED SPOT MESSAGES TO BE AIRED ON CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.3.)

The election dramas developed by CEMESP for radio were highly praised by the NEC's Director of Civic and Voter Education, who asked that they be shared with the Liberian Broadcast System as well. The airing of these messages was postponed due to renewed focus on the Ebola crisis and the need for nation-wide messaging focused on this important health emergency.

5.3.2.5. HOLD SPORTS EVENTS TO PROMOTE NON-VIOLENCE AND YOUTH/WOMEN ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.4.)

When the EVD crisis began to grow, DEN-L asked to use some funds from its sports tournament project to work in communities to stop the spread of Ebola. The Bong County Health Team had set up an Ebola Task Force, with DEN-L as appointed head of the social mobilization committee.

5.3.2.6. ENGAGE CANDIDATES IN PROMOTING NON-VIOLENCE IN THEIR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.5.)

WANEP began this work in July, observing the party primaries in order to be ready to reach out to the candidates as soon as they were officially registered. They drafted sample statements to guide candidates in recording their pledges to avoid campaign speech that could inspire antagonism and violence and began preparations for their non-violence forums with the candidates. The actual engagement with candidates and signing of MOUs is indefinitely postponed due to the Ebola crisis.

5.8.4. JOURNALISM TRAININGS (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.)

5.8.4.1. CONFLICT SENSITIVE REPORTING (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.1.)

5.8.4.1.1. Training for Community Radio Station journalists (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.1.2.)

The Conflict Sensitive Reporting training for CRS journalists planned for August was put on hold due to the Ebola crisis. In September, the CSML media team discussed plans for hosting the training before the upcoming Special Senatorial Election tentatively re-scheduled for December 2014.

5.8.4.2. ENHANCE MMPS' CAPACITY TO CONDUCT ELECTION-REPORTING MENTORING (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.3.)

5.8.4.2.1. Hold ToT with LIWOMAC and LMC trainers on election and constitutional review process (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.3.1.)

Five media trainers (3 males and 2 females) participated in a ToT to prepare CRS reporters to cover the Special Senatorial Election

On July 22, five CSML media trainers participated in a one-day Training of Trainers on how to prepare CRS reporters to cover the Special Senatorial Elections. The trainers learned how to mentor and train community radio journalists to apply the skills they learned in issue-focused election reporting training in their day-to-day work. The trainers learned how to help reporters develop story ideas, report on the NEC schedule, develop report cards for political candidates, and conduct election-related polls to inform their reporting.

IREX's community radio station partners received issue-focused election training back in May. With the newly received ToT the media trainers will be able to provide valuable ongoing mentorship and guidance to these reporters.

However, the trainers did not go into the field to conduct mentoring following the training as planned because IREX suspended all travel due to the Ebola crisis.

5.8.4.3. GIRLS' MEDIA FRONTIERS (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.5.)

During the quarter, LIWOMAC selected 20 young women to participate in Girls' Media Frontiers, a new initiative designed to train young women in multi-media journalism to prepare them to report on women candidates and represent women's voices in the Special Senatorial Elections. The young women were selected from a pool of 62 short-listed candidates by an independent panel of NGO professionals following interviews held with all short-listed candidates on July 21st and 22nd.

In early August the GMF initiative was put on hold because of the Ebola crisis. In September, LIWOMAC staff contacted the young women about their selection for the program. LIWOMAC developed a tentative plan for the training, if the election takes place in December. The Media Team and LIWOMAC are reviewing the draft manual developed by the consultant who remains eager and available to conduct the training when conditions allow.

In addition, LIWOMAC also began construction of a new production studio that will be used for the Girls' Media Frontiers program.

5.8.4.3.1. Provide trainings to LIWOMAC and Selected GMF Participants (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.5.2.)

All trainings for the Girls Media Frontier Program were suspended due to the Ebola crisis.

5.8.5. ELECTION REPORTING CENTER (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.)

5.8.5.1. RE-ESTABLISH ERC AT THE LMC (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.1.)

During the quarter, the LMC continued with preparations for the Election Reporting Center (ERC) and the ERC consultant began work on the training manuals for election monitors and ERC staff.

In July, IREX's Senior Media Program Officer held two separate meetings with the ERC consultant and the LMC Officer-in-Charge to clarify budgetary allotments approved by IREX for the ERC activities. She also participated in the weekly briefing meeting of ERC staff, the consultant and the Officer-in-Charge to assist with speedy coordination and

implementation of the activities. A key part of the discussion was focused on how the ERC could be directly linked to other CSML initiatives including SMS and OMRCH, and other election partners including ECC and WONGOSOL.

In August, the LMC finalized a contract with Prospects Consultants, the IT firm that is developing the on-time results website for the Election Reporting Center (ERC). The company completed the demo which includes a testing template for messaging that will be used to test the site through the use of short SMS codes. The LMC and the ERC IREX consultant are in the process of purchasing the codes from a local mobile company.

Also during the period, the LMC completed drafts of manuals on training ERC monitors and reporters for the Special Senatorial Election, Conflict Sensitive Reporting, the Situation Room and the Opinion Poll and submitted them to the Media team for review

Additionally, IREX's IT Officer purchased 15 laptops and four desktops for the ERC.

5.8.5.1.1. Re-activate the On-Time Results Website (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.1.1.)

In July, the LMC began gathering content for the On-time results website. The staff interviewed Senators Jewel Howard Taylor and Prince Johnson about their plans for their next term. The LMC reached out to other candidates and discussed plans to gather information from other CSML partners that are working on election activities. The goal is to post interviews of candidates and news stories about election-related activities and events on the ERC website to keep the public informed about issues and events in the Special Senatorial Election. Work on the website was put on hold due to the Ebola crisis.

5.8.6. TAKING THE CANDIDATES TO THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE TO THE CANDIDATES (WORKPLAN 1.9.6.)

5.8.6.1. HOLD TRAINING OF CRS JOURNALISTS/CSO REPRESENTATIVES TO MODERATE DEBATES (WORKPLAN 1.9.6.1.)

Twenty-five (25) journalists (15 males and 10 females) were trained as debate moderators for the Special Senatorial Election

The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) held its third of three regional trainings for debate moderators from July 23rd-25th at the YMCA Conference Center in Zwedru. Twenty-five people from five counties (Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe) participated in the training. Participants learned how to maintain their objectivity while moderating political debates, the NEC's rules and regulations, how to prepare for debates, and the guidelines for hosting electoral debates. They also participated in mock debates and watched videos on political debates.

During the period under review, the PUL also began receiving signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) from community radio stations that are expected to broadcast the debates across the 15 counties. The MOUs commit the PUL and the CRSs to ensure that the debates will be broadcast in hard-to-reach communities. The PUL is expected to sign MOUs for live broadcast or relay with a total of 50 community radio stations. The process was stalled in August and September because of the Ebola crisis.

5.8.7. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.)

5.8.7.1. REGIONAL FORUMS (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.3.)

5.8.7.1.1. Hold four regional forums to discuss women's political participation quota (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.3.1.)

Forty-five (45) individuals (11 males and 34 females) participated in a forum to discuss and debate women's political participation

The second Regional Forum on the 30% Quota Bill for women's political participation was held in Monrovia with 45 participants from Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, and Margibi Counties. The forum featured a panel discussion including three guest panelists: Thomas Mulbah (School of Peace Studies at the University of Liberia), Marayah Fyneah (Gender Coordinator- Ministry of Gender and Development), and Miatta Diawolor (Sisters Aid Liberia Inc. or SAIL).

The three panelists were asked to deliberate on specific elements of the bill, including: "History and Advantages of the 30% Quota Bill," "How can men benefit from the 30% Quota Bill," and "How can Youth Benefit from the 30% Quota Bill." Following the panelists' comments the discussion was open to the audience and fruitful debate was encouraged by the facilitators from WONGOSOL.

Due to the worsening Ebola crisis, the third and fourth Regional Forums were not held. Discussions will be held with WONGOSOL in early October to determine a way forward in anticipation of the eventual election.

5.8.7.2. OUTREACH (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.4.)

5.8.7.2.1. Conduct door-to-door outreach to promote civic education (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.4.1.)

WONGOSOL's network members with support from the Field Supervisor conducted door-to-door outreach in CSML's seven target counties to encourage women to participate in the Constitutional Review process and vote in the Special Senatorial Elections. The WONGOSOL members focused specifically on informing citizens—primarily women—to replace their lost or damaged Voter ID cards in the appropriate time allotted by the NEC. Approximately 500 women in the seven counties were directly engaged through this outreach method.

To broaden the reach of these outreach efforts, WONGOSOL collaborated with LIWOMAC through its radio, the Liberia Women Democracy Radio (LWDR) to host a radio program to discuss the 30% Quota Bill for women's political participation. The program encouraged men and women to recognize the value of the Bill for their own self-interest and for Liberia's interest as a whole. Unfortunately, all of the callers into the program were men, but importantly several of the callers were aware of the importance of women's inclusion in decision making and were very supportive of the Bill.

5.8.7.2.2. Hold Palaver Hut Meetings to encourage dialogue on women's inclusion in decision making (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.4.2.)

Due to the ongoing Ebola crisis, the Palava Hut meetings scheduled for the quarter were postponed indefinitely. As referenced above, discussions will be held with WONGOSOL in early October to determine a way forward in anticipation of the eventual election.

5.8.7.3. FINAL ROUNDTABLE/REPORT (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.5.)

5.8.7.3.1. Consultant to develop election report documenting results of indicators and analyzing women's inclusion and barriers to inform 2017 process (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.5.1.)

WONGOSOL network members monitored political primaries in July to assess women's participation and other key gender-related indicators. Six primaries of three political parties were monitored (Unity Party, Liberty Party and the Congress for Democratic Change) in Lofa, River Gee, Grand Bassa and Grand Gedeh, according to reports the following were observed and recorded:

- Low number of female delegates from the above mentioned primaries, cumulative total of 533 attended, of that amount 424 were males while 129 were females.
- Of six primaries monitored only two female candidates were nominated and one elected.

- Some female candidates were not familiar with the rules of the primary nor were the rules visible to them as a guide.
- Most female candidates were very shy therefore they could not fully express themselves.
- Six primaries monitored, only one female moderated during the debates.
- It was observed that even though females were not familiar with the rules or rules were not visible, they did not disagree or make any objections.
- The Alternative National Congress Party (ANC) primaries held in Grand Gedeh County brought together 39 persons including candidates. Of the 39, only five women were represented as delegates while all five candidates were men.

In September, the Consultant hired to do the documentation and report on women's participation in the 2014 special elections submitted a draft of the report template. The template was reviewed and feedback was provided for restructure to ensure all concerns and obstacles to women's fair participation in the Special Senatorial Election processes are captured.

5.8.8. ELECTION COORDINATION COMMITTEE (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.)

5.8.8.1.   CAMPAIGN MONITORING (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.1.)

5.8.8.1.1.   Provide training to 30 monitors to monitor campaign process (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.1.2.)
Thirty-four (34) individuals were trained by the ECC to serve as Monitors of the Special Senatorial Election

On July 11th and 12th, the Election Coordinating Committee (ECC) trained 34 monitors from 15 counties to monitor the campaign process at Bassa Women Development Association Conference Hall in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Assistant Magistrate and NEC representative from Grand Bassa County Mr. Al B. Smith welcomed participants at the workshop and commended the ECC for organizing the workshop and its support to the electoral process. He reaffirmed the importance of an independent body conducting election monitoring as a means to improve transparency.

The workshop was facilitated by executive members of ECC from the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP), WANEP, Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), NAYMOTE, Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA), and Search for Common Ground (SFCG).

Topics covered included Understanding Electoral Process, Legal Framework of Elections, Regulatory and Oversight Institutions during Elections, Media and Communication Monitoring during Elections, Understanding Election Violence, Security and Issues Concerning Women during Elections, and Campaign Violence Monitoring.

5.8.8.1.2.   Monitor the campaign process (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.1.3.)
Due to the Ebola crisis, the Special Senatorial Election was postponed along with the campaign season. As a result, the monitors' activities are indefinitely postponed.

5.8.8.2.   ELECTION-DAY MONITORING (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.2.)

5.8.8.2.1.   Conduct training for 2,000 monitors to monitor election day (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.2.2.)
The Steering Committee and Secretariat of the ECC completed the recruitment of 2000 Election Day monitors in July. The names of recruited monitors were submitted to NEC for accreditation on July 24. 700 monitors were recruited from Montserrado, and 1,300 monitors were recruited from the remaining 14 counties of Liberia. The number of monitors recruited in Montserrado is based upon its electoral districts and registered population.

5.8.8.2.2.   Monitor election-day activities (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.2.3.)

The monitoring of election-day activities is indefinitely postponed as a result of the postponed election.

5.9.   OBJECTIVE NINE: (WORKPLAN 1.10.)

5.9.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (WORKPLAN 1.10.1.)

The restriction placed on all CSML-related travel as a result of the Ebola crisis prevented the RSC Trainers and Mentors from holding mentoring sessions at the Resource Center as well as at the offices of Regional CSOs and CRSs. Nonetheless, 25 SED and OD mentoring engagements were carried out during the course of the quarter by means of mobile phone and email communications.

5.9.1.1.   PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAININGS AND MORE FOCUSED MENTORING IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT FOR AWARD WINNERS AND NON- WINNERS(WORKPLAN 1.10.1.1.)

5.9.1.1.1.   Provide additional training and mentoring for the RSC staff and partner CSOs/CRSs in Business Management, Sales and Marketing and Financial Management (WORKPLAN 1.10.1.1.1.)

Throughout the quarter, the nine SED grantees were mentored in the usage of four basic financial templates (Cash Registrar, Cost Template, Expense Voucher, and Purchase Invoice). Despite the crisis, these organizations are eager to move forward with the set up and establishment of their social enterprises, and appreciated the ongoing support. According to Marline Jarwoe of CJPS, "By using the cost template, I can easily detect whether or not the amount budgeted for a piece of equipment is overstated or understated."

Additionally, mentoring on the roles and responsibilities of SED Management Teams was carried out via phone communication. According to Abraham Alpha of IVA, "as a result of the mentoring session on roles and responsibilities of a Financial Officer, I now understand that I am responsible for ensuring that all finance-related matters of the social enterprise must be done in accordance with standard financial management and accounting practices."

5.9.2. PROMOTE ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNER CSOS/CRSS(WORKPLAN 1.10.2.)

5.9.2.1.   ENSURE INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF ALL RSC ORGANIZATIONS (WORKPLAN 1.10.2.1.)

OD mentoring for the quarter focused on revision of organizational intervention plans of Regional CSOs and CRSs, development of personnel manuals and financial policies, and preparation of job descriptions for staff of Regional CSOs and CRSs.

The organizational intervention plans of sixteen CSOs and CRSs were reviewed to determine the levels of implementation. Checklists of activities contained in the plans were developed and sent to organizations via email and upon review indicated that the participating organizations have implemented between 70 to 75 percent of the activities in their respective intervention plans. For example, in the area of personnel, CODRA, Radio Karn and IVA revealed that they have collected the credentials of all staff. For organizational governance, BOTPAL, Radio Sehnwai, and Radio Totota have reconstituted their Board of Directors in keeping with the by-laws and constitution of their respective organizations.

RSC Mentors pointed out that telephone mentoring and email, though not the ideal form of mentoring, has been quite useful in ensuring that the mentee organizations improve their skills in using the internet, scanning and sending, and collecting and storing documents.

5.9.2.1.1. General Mentoring of partner CSOs/CRSs(WORKPLAN 1.10.2.1.4.)

Prior to the Ebola crisis, the RSC team received seven proposals from partner CSOs to hold election and constitutional review-related grant activities. The proposals were reviewed by the RSC team and submitted to the IREX CS Team for feedback and approval. As a result of the Ebola crisis, IREX instructed DEN-L to reduce their funding pool for CSO–led election-related grants to make provision for Ebola-related proposals. These proposals are expected to be submitted in early October for implementation in the subsequent quarter.

5.9.3. ENHANCE IMPACT OF THE REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTER (WORKPLAN 1.10.3.)

The Resource Center was closed throughout the quarter as a result of the Ebola crisis and is expected to reopen when the circumstances improve. The RSC Trainers and Mentors are using their assigned laptop computers and internet modems to download important resource materials as they continue to work from their respective residences.

5.9.4. SPECIAL ELECTION GRANTS (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.)

Election grants activities were suspended during this quarter due to the worsening Ebola crisis. As referenced in section 5.9.2.1.1., DEN-L was encouraged to mentor partner CSOs to submit Ebola-related grants. Three organizations submitted proposals this quarter, including CODRA, BYA, and ADWANGA, as described in section 5.3.2.

6. GENDER AND YOUTH (WORKPLAN 2.)

6.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES (WORKPLAN 2.1)

6.1.1. PRODUCE GENDER TRAINING TOOLKIT (WORKPLAN 2.1.4.)

The Gender and Youth Manager worked with the IREX Intern to complete the first draft of the Gender Training Toolkit for partners, CSOs, and CRSs. The toolkit includes a training manual, PowerPoint slides, and handouts for ease of reference for gender mainstreaming training. The toolkit will primarily be used by Main Partners, CSOs, and CRSs for ongoing gender mainstreaming training within their organizations.

The Gender and Youth Manager did a final review of the Gender Training Manual and submitted it to the Senior Program Coordinator in September for final editing and subsequent printing. The tool kit will be tested with Gender Focal Points and copies will be made and distributed to CSML partners in the following quarter.

6.1.2. WORK WITH LIWOMAC TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO FEJAL TO ROLL OUT SEA PREVENTION/AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN THE MEDIA (WORKPLAN 2.1.5.)

One-hundred and sixty nine (169) CSML Mentors, Master Trainers and mentee staff (86 male and 83 female) participated in a SEA training

In July, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) training was held for all CSML's Master Trainers, Mentors and most mentee organizations. The training aimed at enhancing awareness of SEA and supporting the organization's efforts to institute preventive and response mechanisms within their programs and policies.

Topics discussed included:

- Key concepts including Power, Abuse, Vulnerability and Violence

- Definition of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)
- Causes and consequences of SEA
- Review of different SEA scenarios
- International and national best practices to address SEA
- Developing key policies and guidelines to address SEA

One-hundred and sixty nine individuals from CSOs and CRSs as well as Main Partners' organizations in Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Montserado, and Grand Bassa Counties participated in these trainings. The training was not conducted in Lofa due to Ebola-related travel restrictions. Action plans were developed following the SEA training but were not implemented during the quarter because of the ongoing Ebola crisis.

6.1.3. CONDUCT GENDER MAINSTREAMING TRAINING WITH LIWOMAC AND LMC STAFF (WORKPLAN 2.1.9.)

The Gender Mainstreaming Training plans and schedule for LIWOMAC and LMC were finalized in July. However, the training has not been held because of the restriction on gatherings.

7. GRANTS (WORKPLAN 3.)

7.1. ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH USAID AND IREX POLICIES (WORKPLAN 3.1)

7.1.1. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT DOCUMENTS ARE PROPERLY FILED IN LINE WITH CSML CLOSEOUT SCHEDULE (WORKPLAN 3.1.1.)

During the quarter under review, grants filed all available subgrant documents in line with the CSML closeout schedule.

7.1.2. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT INFORMATION IS POSTED INTO IKNOW TRACKING SYSTEM REGULARLY (WORKPLAN 3.1.2.)

The Grants Office uploaded 61 assorted documents on the IREX online iKNOW sub-award tracking system. The Grants Office will continue this process until all relevant documents are uploaded.

7.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CS, MEDIA, RSC, AND GENDER & YOUTH DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED (WORKPLAN 3.2.)

The Grants Office worked closely with the Program teams during the quarter to support development of new subgrant agreements and monitoring of existing subgrants.

7.3. ADMINISTER GRANTS (WORKPLAN 3.3.)

Five subgrants were awarded during the quarter to support Ebola-response activities. Upcoming grants for Ebola-related activities are in process for the next quarter.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (WORKPLAN 4.)

8.1. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WORKPLAN 4.1.)

8.1.1. ADMINISTER THE PMP (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.)

During the month of September, the M&E department collected indicator data for entry into the PIDS, which is viewable by USAID. All of CSML's Year Four annual, quarterly, and bi-annual data were entered into CSML data table for onward entry into the PIDS.

Also in September, the M&E Team developed preliminary indicators for the CSML Ebola Response Plan. The indicators developed were mostly output and intermediate-result oriented and most did not track higher-level change. The rationale for this approach is because of the limited time and resources the CSML team has to dedicate to tracking these items and the length of time the team anticipates the activities to continue. The indicators developed are relatively easy to track, though there are some more robust options to measure higher-level changes for some of the activities depending on time and resources.

The M&E Team further worked with the Program Team to provide any feedback on these preliminary indicators as well as thoughts on how they can be expanded or improved to be able to fully capture the impact of these activities, to the extent possible.

8.1.1.1. COLLECT PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.1.)

During the quarter, the M&E Team continued collecting performance management data, which has been used to manage, monitor, and document the Program's implementation.This data is collected with support from the Program departments.

In August, the M&E Department collected data for IREX's standard indicators: 1) number of institutions supported; and 2) number of beneficiaries supported. The data will form part of IREX Annual Report. The data captures direct and indirect beneficiaries and institutions that have benefitted from the CSML program in 2014.

Additionally, the M&E Manager finalized the report for the previously conducted survey that augments the data collected from the Organizational Capacity Assessment with further qualitative data on the Resource Partners as well as the partner CSOs within six of the seven CSML-focused counties. The report covers the assessment of five thematic areas to measure programmatic improvements: Organizational Systems, Advocacy, Gender, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Financial Sustainability. The survey report provides further insight regarding how CSML has helped to build the capacity of individuals as well as their organizational systems, the inclusion of gender in programs, the prevalence of advocacy interventions and organizational sustainability. Year four organizational capacity assessments from the Resource Partners were also finalized.

During the month of September, Performance Management Plan (PMP) data were collected, entered, and analyzed from the program's indicator sheets for the period of May and June. These indicator sheets report data for three of CSML standard Civil Society indicators namely: # of USG assisted CSOs that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions at least two times in the last six months; % of CSOs who report that they have communicated/coordinated with government officials in at least three of the last six months; and # of forums or meetings held with government in the seven counties or at the national level by CSML or a CSML partner CSO.

8.1.1.2. ENTER QUARTERLY/BIANNUAL AND ANNUAL PMP DATA INTO THE PIDS (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.3.)

In July all CSML Quarterly data (April-June 2014) was entered into the Performance Indicator Database System (PIDS). This system is viewable by USAID.

8.1.2. IMPROVE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR DATA COLLECTION (WORKPLAN 4.1.2.)

8.1.2.1. ENTER AND REPORT TRAINING ATTENDANCE DATA (WORKPLAN 4.1.2.1.)

During the quarter, training attendance data for all CSML trainings were entered into the data base. The database allows the program to capture all the trainings conducted over a particular period. The attendance record is disaggregated by sex, age, organization, etc.

8.1.3. CONDUCT FINAL SURVEY OF PERCEPTIONS (WORKPLAN 4.1.3.)

In July, the Monitoring and Evaluation Department launched the end of year survey of government officials' perception of CSOs, and citizens' perception of government officials, CSOs, and community radios in Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties.

The purpose of the survey is to measure perceptions and to determine current levels of trust amongst government officials, civil society actors, and ordinary citizens and to measure the reach of community radio stations. As the CSML program approaches its final year, the findings from the survey will help the program measure progress towards the accomplishment of stated objectives.

During the month of August, the M&E team coordinated with the enumerators in the field to collect additional forms from Nimba County. A standardized Excel Database was developed for the entry of data from the Perception Survey. Data entry has commenced for the questionnaires from Bong, Lofa and Montserrado.

During the month of September, data for the final survey of perceptions from Bong and Lofa Counties were edited and entered into the Standard Excel Database. A total of 304 questionnaires have been entered into the database from the two counties.

8.1.4. CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS (WORKPLAN 4.1.5.)

8.1.4.1. CONDUCT ADDITIONAL DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES TO TEASE OUT UNDERLYING DIMENSIONS OF PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES (WORKPLAN 4.1.5.2.)

Throughout the month of July, the M&E Team worked with the Program Team and partners to capture their Most Significant Change as a result of the CSML program. The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation that allows project stakeholders to identify the greatest impact of an intervention from their own perspective and through story telling. The MSC will contribute to the program's evaluation by providing data on impact and outcomes which can be used to help assess the performance of the program as a whole. Following the Regional Partners Meeting in June over fifty MSC stories were submitted. A competition was designed to encourage all Program staff to follow up with organizations that submitted stories to ensure that all necessary information was collected. However, due to the Ebola crisis and the shift in perception and priorities in the country, this contest was indefinitely postponed.

8.2. TRAINING AND TOOLS (WORKPLAN 4.2.)

Throughout the quarter, training attendance data was entered into the database and training evaluation forms were collected from all CSML trainings and also entered into the database. The evaluations provide IREX with valuable feedback on trainers, training topics, and logistical arrangements to inform future planning.

8.2.1. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MAIN PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS IN M&E SYSTEMS (WORKPLAN 4.2.1.)

The M&E Team in July worked with Dr. Maureen Taylor of SI to train M&E Coordinators and program staff from the four Resource Partners in basic Monitoring and Evaluation. The training will help improve the MPs' capacity to mentor and support the CRSs and CSOs and also allow them to improve their own organization's capacity and ability to access further funding beyond the CSML program

9. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: CSML Ebola Response Plan (as of August 2014)
- Attachment 2: CSML Election/Ebola Reallocation and Activity Adjustment Plan
- Attachment 3: September/October 2014 Revised Narrative Workplan